

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A device comprising:
more than one spring electrical contact to contact a first surface of an object,
said first surface of said object to have a material electrodeposited thereon; and
a base to directly support said first surface of said object without being directly
connected to said spring electrical contacts, said base to distribute the force to seal a second
surface of said object.
2. (Original) The device of claim 1 including a soft, acid resistant material
disposed on said base.
3. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein said base is spaced inward from said
contacts.
4. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein said spring electrical contacts are
connected to a frame.
5. (Original) The device of claim 4 wherein said spring electrical contacts are
resilient beams that terminate with tips.
6. (Original) The device of claim 5 wherein said object has an outer edge, said
base to distribute a force at said object outer edge and said tips to contact said object inward
from said base.
7. (Original) The device of claim 4 wherein said base and said frame are annular.
8. (Original) The device of claim 4 wherein said frame and said beams are coated
with an acid-resistant material.

9. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein said base substantially continuously contacts said surface.

10. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein said spring electrical contacts independently deflect while electrical contact is made with said object.

11. (Original) A system comprising:

a frame having spring electrical contacts to electrically contact a first surface of an object to enable electrodeposition on said object first surface;

a base to directly support said object, said base and said frame not directly connected; and

a sealing ring to seal a second surface of said object to prepare for electrodeposition.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11 including a plating cell to house said object for electroplating.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12 including an electrode.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13 including a power supply.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14 including a thrust plate and a seal plate.

16. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein said base is annular defining an annular aperture.

17. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein said base is to distribute the force required to seal said second surface of said object.

18. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein said object is a wafer and a metal or metal alloy is to be deposited on said first surface.

19. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein said object is a wafer and copper or an alloy including copper is to be deposited on said first surface.

20. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein said spring electrical contacts apply a variable force less than the force that if applied would exceed the mechanical strength of said object.

21. (Withdrawn) A method comprising:

sealing a second side of an object to prepare said object for electrodeposition;
directly physically supporting said object on a first side to enable said sealing;

and

electrically contacting said first side of said object with spring electrical contacts to facilitate electrodeposition, said electrical spring contacts and said support not in direct contact.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21 including distributing the force to seal said second side of said object about the periphery of said object.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21 including applying a variable force with said spring electrical contacts to facilitate electrodeposition.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23 including determining the length and the maximum displacement of said spring electrical contacts.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21 including distributing the force to seal said second side of said object without exceeding the strength of said object first side.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21 including depositing a conductive material on said object first side.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26 including depositing a metal or metal alloy on said object first side.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21 including displacing adjacent spring electrical contacts with respect to said object first side.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21 including initially contacting said object with said spring electrical contacts, said initial contact having little or no associated force.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21 including electrically contacting said first side of said object without exceeding the strength of said object first side.